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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1906.

That what we have we prize not  
to the worth whiles we enjoy it.  
—Much Ado About Nothing.

are informed by the Charlotte Observer, has made a notable success of colored labor in the silk mills, and has received many compliments for the manner in which he manages his people and makes industrious workers of them. He is a man of ability, and knows all about the things of which he writes. He takes the position that the negro youth is rapidly "sinking to the depths of uselessness, insolence and viciousness." The writer then cites the manner in which domestic servants perform their duties and comments on their general unreliability. As a result of this condition of affairs, he says, "we see our true, tried and lifelong friends casting about to find others to take our places." Continuing, the colored preacher says:

"The best people of the whole South-land looked upon our progress with pleasure and pride. They share our sorrow in our suffering, but the substantial things still face us. There are millions who are practically dead to every sense of usefulness in their community, their county or their State. Indolence and idleness can no more survive the industrial awakening than night can outlive sunshine. For one to continually call attention to grievances, real or imaginary, past or present, will not give satisfaction for life's struggles. Remember that every lawful thing is a step somewhere in the stairway up to greatness and to God. That spirit of kindness, loyalty and devotion that enthroned the mothers and fathers in the hearts of many of the noblest sons and daughters of this mighty Southland will at least make us for our friends. The great majority of the race will never be able to do more than to go hand in hand with the sturdy army of bread-winners, acquire a modest home and surround themselves with simple comforts; and not that, if the opportunity that is now before them is not seen, seized and improved. To the moles and bats with this ceaseless agitation of the separate cars and the late constitutional amendment. They are not the most important things that hinder our backward race. We have got to start our structures where our civilization finds us, and build from the granite upward, and make ourselves the people wanted upon the farms and in the homes, the shops and factories of the South. Rest you assured the people who do the most, and the best for the race, will get the most to do, whether they be negro, Italian or any other class of the human family."

There is, in fact, less "prejudice" in the South against the negro than in the North. Southern whites like the negro, and as a rule the negro in the South receives all the respect and consideration that he deserves. If he shows himself to be a good, honest, industrious and useful citizen, he commands the respect which every other citizen commands. The difference between Northern men and Southern men in their treatment of the negro is this. In the South there is complete separation, and the negro is required to keep on his side of the line. There is no pretense or mockery about it. The rule is fixed and inviolable. The negro thoroughly understands the situation in the South; there is no doubt about it, and he governs himself accordingly; whereas, in the North, his position is equivocal, an unknown quantity. It is best to be fair, frank and honest in all things, and Southern white men have chosen that course in their dealings with the black race. But, after all, it sits down to this: The good negro gets along well; the bad negro gets along badly. But that is no matter of race distinction.

**A Lenten Hint.**  
Lent is the season of self-denial. But mere self-denial is negative and has little virtue within itself. It should be employed as the means to an end. Its design, primarily, is to beget self-control and the spirit of humility. If one does penance and grumbles about it and becomes cross and disagreeable and resentful because of it, the sacrifice will do more harm than good. It is all in the spirit of it.  
The best Lenten hint we have heard for many a day comes from a Richmond girl. She says that instead of contenting herself with putting aside the candy box for party days, she is going to cultivate smiles and a cheerful disposition. We heard of this resolve by chance and it came to us in the nature of a confidential communication, so please don't tell her that we told you. But it is too good to keep.  
It is as good a sermon as any you will hear during the season of Lent. It is the positive side of the proposition. Cultivate smiles and a cheerful disposition. Bless the little preacher!

**A Bill to Be Passed.**  
Representative Nicholas Longworth is bill providing for the appropriation of \$6,000,000 for the purchase of permanent embassies abroad is a measure about which there is hardly room for two minds. It fairly cries aloud for passage.  
The underpayment of our ambassadors to foreign capitals is a matter of general notoriety. The scale of living demanded by the dignity of their positions, including necessary and costly entertaining, makes in itself the heaviest kind of a strain on their inadequate salaries. Add to this the rental for an appropriate house, and conditions are created from which our diplomatic service is obliged to suffer. The choice of the government, in short, becomes limited to a group of men rich enough to supplement from their private purses the honorarium allowed them by a too thrifty legislature. A poor man, be he ever so capable, is virtually ineligible.  
This is the reproach which the Longworth bill principally aims to remove. The House committee, in reporting it favorably, put the matter thus:  
"In a word, the real object of this bill is not so much to better the condition of our present diplomatic envoys, although that in many cases is desirable, as to place in a condition under which high offices will come within the reach of every American citizen of brains, culture, ability and patriotism, regardless of what his financial circumstances may be."

A bill with such an object can surely find few objections. That it was not introduced long ago, indeed, is passing strange. Other great powers not only pay their representatives larger salaries than we do, but in most of the larger centers have long provided them with suitable and permanent homes.

**The Negro in the South.**  
Yesterday we referred to a complaint from certain negroes of Georgia concerning conditions in the South, and comments made thereon by the Springfield Republican. The Georgia negroes alleged that there was discrimination in that State against the members of their race, and that they did not have an equal show with the whites in obtaining profitable employment and bettering their condition. As an offset, we published statements from the Chicago Chronicle and a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, showing that there was more discrimination against the negro in the West and North than in the South.  
We now call attention to an article in the North Carolina Baptist by Rev. T. W. Thurston, the negro superintendent of the Ashley-Bailey Silk Mills, at Fayetteville, in which more than six hundred negroes are employed. This colored preacher, we

The mere question of permanency of abode, if nothing more were involved, would alone strongly commend this bill. A rented embassy is not fully in keeping with the dignity of a great nation, and there is something unseemly in the constant, but inevitable changes of location. In Paris, it is said, though nearly anyone can direct you to the embassies of the other great powers, hardly anybody can tell you where the American embassy is. Even the omniscient cabman shrugs his shoulders and says: "It is on wheels."

**The Suit Against West Virginia.**  
The Supreme Court of Appeals has granted the motion of Virginia for leave to file a bill of complaint against West Virginia to force an accounting and settlement of the share of liability of that State in the debt incurred while it was a part of Virginia, and the famous suit is now under way. The Times-Dispatch has not overlooked that this is a serious question, nor that it would have been better if Virginia could have kept out of the action, but there is good reason to believe that a suit would have been brought in any event, and Virginia would have been involved in spite of herself. Therefore, it seems to us that the only course left to Virginia was to accept the offer of the certificate holders to bring suit on their account, the State herself being a large holder of certificates, and endeavor to have a final accounting and settlement of this question that has been hanging like a pall over the State for many years.

Under the agreement with the committee of the certificate holders, if the Supreme Court decides that West Virginia should pay a certain sum in liquidation of her obligations, the sum thus ascertained will be accepted by the certificate holders in full settlement of their claims and Virginia will be released from any further obligation. That is a consummation devoutly to be wished, and we sincerely hope that the case will be settled on that basis and that the debt question will forever have been retired by this suit.

**War On Noise.**  
The West End Woman's Republican Club, of New York, has declared itself against the noises of the city as a deadly menace. It protests that the women more than the men suffer from the noises of the streets. They rise early in the morning to attend to their household duties and at intervals during the day should rest, but the noises will not permit. "It is notoriously true," says the manifesto, "that a woman at home in this city may rarely have an uninterrupted hour of quiet and rest throughout the day. If she sits down or lies down to rest there comes up from the streets and from the backyards an incessant jangling, howling, shrieking, that tortures her very soul. It is not the playing of the children in the streets that she objects to, but the unnecessary roaring and discord made by street tradesmen, and of these the vegetable and fruit hucksters are the most intolerable offenders."

The New York Sun is disposed to ridicule this protest, but it is a complaint of a serious nature, and our heart-felt sympathies are with the women. All women have their nerves and noise is very trying on a nervous organism. We doubt not that many a woman has been hastened to her death by the wearing noises of the city. And some men suffer also. We never know the blessing of quiet until snow covers the stony streets and puts all vehicles, as it were, on rubber tires. If the women of Richmond will organize against the useless noises of this city we promise them our chivalrous aid.

The Vanderbilts are not likely to become infatuated with automobiling in the Elysian style. To be assaulted by a discourteous mob, simply for running over a boy or so, is a little too much. Let them speed back to a country where accidents are easily adjusted by the chauffeur and a \$10 bill.

Information contained in the latest advices from China is to the effect that the uprising against the foreigners is likely to be serious, that it is not directed against the foreigners, and that no uprising will take place.

"How far," exclaims a clever parodist, "that little scandal throws its beams!" If the aphorism isn't intrinsically true, it may be urged that the town-topical colonel did his best to make it so.

We take pleasure in stamping as a canard the report that Mr. J. London's socialistic addresses are to be collected in book form under the title, "The Call of the Wild Jack."

Surgeon-General Takaki states he intends increasing the height of the Japanese by a new food system. We are obliged to regard this as rather a tall job.

High finance could scarcely arraign itself more severely than by any movement toward the overthrow of Mr. Stuyvesant Fish.

The Tillman-Roosevelt rate bill has a nice sound when you say it fast and think hard about something else.

If Pittsburg keeps on enlarging at this rate, she has a chance of some day growing up to her elbow.

It is painful to swear off for Lent when you have half a box of unburnt cigars.

Common honesty is not, however, so particularly frequent.

**Rhymes for To-Day**  
Dull Care, Skidoo!  
To-night I'm sick of working;  
Life looks a grind to me;  
I long to see what shirking  
And idle joy may be.  
I try to busy my hands;  
To get my mind at ease;  
And snuff these midnight tapers  
And cut some joyous capers,  
And take a shot at Glee.

I planned a lullabie showing  
When life was just begun;  
And now I watch it going  
Down the river of life's run.  
And worse, as we grow older,  
The young first die or smoulder—  
Fate, take me by the shoulder  
And steer me to some Fun!

I'm sick of all this grinding—  
I shoot it all away;  
I'm gradually finding  
That working doesn't pay.  
Now give me, Fate, my measure  
Of all unclouded leisure;  
Submerge me deep in pleasure  
And so remake me gay! H. S. H.

**Merely Joking**  
No Check, for instance.—"Mr. Richley had nothing but praise for your work for him before the Citizens' Committee," said the friend. "Yes," replied the lobbyist, gloomily, "nothing but praise." Philadelphia Ledger.

A Secret.—"You're not happy with your husband, are you?" "Yes—but for goodness' sake don't tell him."—Cleveland Leader.

Very Likely.—"There's going to be another ancestry society." "What is it?" "Descendants of people who received invitations to the White House wedding."—Detroit Free Press.

Business Training.—"Your son is making a specialty of chemistry, isn't he?" "Yes. When he goes into business he's going to start a maple syrup factory."—Cleveland Leader.

His Qualification.—"George left the infantry company." "Why?" "They told him his legs had the proper curve for the cavalry."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**  
February 28th.

509 B. C.—Lucius Junius Brutus, the avenger of Lucretia and founder of the Roman Republic, fell at the battle of the Caudine Forks. So great was the fury of the encounter between him and his adversary that their heads were hurled into the air and each fell dead from his horse, transfixed by the lance of his enemy.

628—Chosroes II., King of Persia, died.

1610—The House of Commons complained of the King's profusion, especially in the immense sums lavished on Scotch favorites.

1734—Battle in Syria between the Turks, 45,000, and the Persians, under Kouli Khan.

1804—Upwards of thirty American vessels captured by small French privateers and dismantled in obscure ports in the island of Cuba.

1829—Treaty of peace signed between Peru and Colombia.

1865—President Lincoln signed the law prohibiting the officers or attaches of the army or navy from interfering with the elections in the several States.

1874—Discovery made that certain Chicago saloon-keepers had been hiring zero-bombs, to use as tear gas in temperance crusades and sing and pray in their saloons to attract business.

Famous Titchbourne claimant convicted of perjury in London, after a trial lasting 130 days.

1884—Captain Schley, U. S. N., now rear-admiral, retired, ordered to command expedition to search for the missing Greely, now major-general, lost in the Arctic.

1885—Physicians in attendance on General Grant in New York announced that the patient was nearing the end.

1894—Democrats in caucus at Washington decided to put wool, lumber, iron ore and salt on the free list.

1895—Secretary Morton issued statement denying the claims of foreign governments that American meat was tainted.

**CARD FROM MR. WISE.**  
He Denies That He Is Opposing Confirmation of J. E. B. Stuart.  
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir,—Please deny most emphatically the report from your Washington correspondent that I am opposing the confirmation of Captain J. E. B. Stuart. I most heartily, now and at all times, wish him success, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of the country. I most heartily did what I could to make him marshal; I was distressed at his transfer because I thought it the result of a mean attack upon him, and will be rejoiced to hear of his confirmation as collector. I have taken no part in his career, and I am glad to see his return to the country. I wish the Republican party of Virginia had more men with the ability and the courage of our country's great leaders. It would get along better. The repetition of the story about my trying to help Mr. Peasey because he is my friend has ceased being a mistake, and becomes a falsehood. He is neither my kinsman nor have I heard of his wanting to be collector. Stuart was made collector. Peasey deserves an office much more than a good many of those who have been by the aid of the personal friends, and I could not help him to secure the place given Stuart, for I was Stuart's friend, and I was not going to let him have the place, even if I could help him, which I could not.

Notwithstanding Peasey may say any charges are true against Stuart, I do not believe it. I think Peasey has a personal prejudice, although it is none of my business. JNO. S. WISE.  
New York, Feb. 26.

**QUERIES AND ANSWERS**  
A College President.  
Kindly give name and address of president of the University of Virginia, and inform me in the history of dancing, men and women first danced together. H. L. R.  
Thomas E. Chambliss, Bethany, W. Va.  
In Egypt some 3,000 years before Christ.

**Giles County Records.**  
Please tell me where I should be most likely to find deeds, etc., touching lands owned in 1850 in the counties of Giles and Bland, in Virginia, and Upshur, W. Va., in West Virginia. A. S. W.  
In the records of the present counties of Giles, Wythe and Tazewell, in Virginia, and Barbour, Lewis and Randolph, in W. Va.

**Quotations.**  
Please give authors of the following: 1. Wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower. 2. The green-eyed monster. 3. To err is human, to forgive, divine. 4. Heaven opened wide her ever during gates. Also name the book in which the character Barbara Frietche is found. WYNESSBORO.

1. Burns. 2. Shakespeare. 3. Pope. 4. Milton. The Poems of J. G. Whittier.

**Virginia Historical Magazine.**  
Please inform me what the Virginia Historical Magazine is, and give the name and address of the Editor at present office. A. S. W.  
Bluefield, W. Va.  
The periodical of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va. Mrs. Alice Bransford, daughter of Robert Carter, Burmuda Hundred, Va.

**A Problem.**  
Please work this problem: The sides of a triangle are 16.5, 18.32 and 23.6; what is its area?  
W.  
Add the sides and divide by two; subtract each side from the half sum; multiply the three remainders and the half sum together and take the square root. The half sum is 31.75; the three remainders are 15.15, 13.44 and 3.16.

**Mineral Terms.**  
Is there such metals or ores as "mag. ledumite," "chromo" or "tintum"? If so, their use, extent and value?  
READER.

There are no such words in mineralogy as the above. "Magledumite" may be intended for molybdenite, "chromo" for chrome, ore and "tintum" for titanium.

**Blind Tom.**  
Please inform me where Blind Tom was born and who owned him? Also, how his talents were given to him before introduction of electrical alarms, and where and when latter were introduced?  
X.

In the county of Muscogee, Ga., near Columbus, May 25, 1840. The Bethune family, Cries and bells. First patent for electrical alarm was granted in England to X. Rutter, in 1837. First installation was in New York and Berlin, in 1851. Experimental efforts were made earlier in several places, but Richmond, Va., in 1855, had the first electric car system in the world.

**Ralph Connor.**  
Please furnish me what information you can on the life and works of Ralph Connor. A SUBSCRIBER.

Ralph Connor (Chas. W. Gordon) b. Indian Lands, Glangarry, Ont., October, 1860. Graduated from Toronto University and Knox College. Presbyterian minister and missionary to mines and lumber camps of Rocky Mountains, 1890-94. Pastor of St. Stephen's, in Winnipeg. Has written—Beyond the Marshes; Black Rock; Owen's Canon; Sky Pilot; Ould Michael; The Man from Glangarry; The Prospector.

**A School Complication.**  
Please answer the following in the Query Column of The Times-Dispatch Weekly for Wednesday, February 28th. The school census in this district was taken in 1905, and showed such a decrease in school population as to entitle the district to just money enough from the State to keep the schools open three or four months in the year, even when the teachers are given a small salary, the usual length of the public school for the next year, on account of one man's indifference. The census is required to be taken every five years.

A CONSTANT READER.  
This matter should be investigated by the local superintendent and School Board, and if any material errors are discovered, the facts should be laid before the State Board of Education. While there is no statute on the subject, it is held by some that the State board has authority to have a new census taken.

**The Panama Canal.**  
When was the Panama Canal question first agitated in this country? Why was it not undertaken before? What will be the length, cost and the time of building? Has this work been undertaken before, and, if so, why did it fail?

A CONSTANT READER.  
Schemes of isthmian canal building are as old as the middle of the seventeenth century. Active work began as result of international congress of 1850, and was entirely under French management, a company floated by de Lesseps. This company became bankrupt in 1889 and a great scandal and several prosecutions arose out of the mismanagement of its affairs. When the United States seriously took up the matter of a canal the Nicaragua route was favored because of the excessive price at which the assets of the old French company were sold. The McKinley administration, however, agreed to take over this property at \$40,000,000. Length will

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**Graft in Washington's Day.**  
Would to God no honest grafter of the present day might take it to heart if I quote what Washington said at the time he took Congress into his arms: "Grafting a cold, black bill and sleeping under frost and snow without clothes or blankets. He wishes he could bring those murderers of our country's honor, the monopolizers, forestallers and engrossers to condign punishment. I would to God that some of the most virtuous men in each State was hung in gibbets upon a gallows five times as high as the one prepared by Haman. 'Iniquities, dissipation and extravagance seem to have laid fast hold of the people, and 'recalculation, peculation and an insatiable thirst for riches seem to have got the better of the order of men, the great business of the day.'"—National Magazine.

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**Richmond's First Railroad.**  
When did the first railroad come to Richmond?  
T. R. G.  
1. Extract from a printed copy of R. T. Daniel, Esq., his legal opinion, as to the right of the Richmond and Petersburg and Potomac Railroad Company to use Broad Street.

2. The right of the company to use Broad (H) Street for its road, is the same with its right to any other part of its road, a chartered right. By its act of incorporation (Feb. 25, 1834) the company is authorized to make a railroad from some point in the corporation of Richmond, to some point within the corporation of Fredericksburg. The company soon after it was organized, informed the Council that it was expected "to conduct the road from the Richmond Turnpike along H Street, to a point at or near intersection of H and Eighth, and for the present to terminate it there with proper connections with the contemplated warehouses and workshops of the company on lots Nos. 47 and 48."

By a resolution adopted on the 25th December, 1834, the Council approved the proposed location of the road, and authorized "the prosecution of the work within the limits of the city, on the proposed location." The company having completed their road on this part of the route, opened it for travel and transportation with cars and locomotive engines on the 25th of February, 1836.

**Does the State Need a College of Its Own?—Should It Accept the Ownership of William and Mary?**  
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir,—House bill No. 42 proposes a radical change in the management of William and Mary College. It provides for placing it wholly in the hands of a board of visitors, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, and elected by the people. The effect of this change, as we are told, would be, and is intended to be, to make of this venerable old college a State institution, belonging to and controlled by the State, just as are the University, the V. M. I., etc.

This measure, by which the right and title to this noble college, long the pride of Virginia and the alma mater of so many of her illustrious sons, would pass into the hands of the State, is, in our opinion, a most proper and fitting one; and if sentiment alone were concerned, it would meet with general favor.

Upon closer consideration, the scheme appears, however, to be inadvisable, both for the State and for the college itself.

1. It would impose a new burden upon the State. In the management of the State, especially upon the funds to be devoted to education, and more especially upon that part of these that should fairly be assigned to higher education.

2. The State, as we are told, would, in effect, be assuming the management of a paying institution. Endowments or annuities must come in to make both ends meet. This is true of all our colleges. It is true of William and Mary and of the University, then, if the State is to conduct the college, it must be an annuity to meet expenses. These annuities also have a fearful habit of getting larger year by year. For instance, this very college of William and Mary, contracted with the State to furnish normal instruction to so many, say about 120 young men for \$100,000 per year; but after three years the figure was increased to \$150,000, and now, twelve years after it was, in 1893, \$250,000, it is now \$350,000, and I learn that \$350,000 is now asked for with a special request of \$50,000 extra. To such demands, I repeat, the State cannot, and should not, subject itself.

3. Nor does there appear to be any corresponding advantage accruing to the State. The college, as we are told, is a well known and most important fact in Virginia, that part of the general system of literary education, which is designated as higher education or collegiate education, is conducted almost exclusively by the independent colleges—Emory and Henry, Hampden-Sydney, the State College, Mason, Roanoke, Washington and Lee, William and Mary. These colleges do this work, and do it most effectively and satisfactorily, without drawing upon the State for a single dollar. They are, in proper sense, a recognized part of the system of education in the State. Now, what would the State be under the proposed plan? It would be taking to own and conduct a college, a large expense in competition with these institutions, which she ought to foster and encourage, and which would, in total yearly income and expenditures, have a credit of \$170,000; they own nearly a million and a half of productive funds; and I estimate that the college and its equipments would aggregate three or four millions more. And all this is practically put at the service of the State in supplying, at the least, a large fraction of the general education, which is known as collegiate education.

Should not the State recognize these facts, and, in all practicable ways, encourage the colleges, which do this work, and not, by competition or otherwise, embarrass or hinder their efforts? I sincerely trust that, whatever the Legislature may do, it will not take the course of taking to own and conduct a college, a large expense in competition with these institutions, which she ought to foster and encourage, and which would, in total yearly income and expenditures, have a credit of \$170,000; they own nearly a million and a half of productive funds; and I estimate that the college and its equipments would aggregate three or four millions more. And all this is practically put at the service of the State in supplying, at the least, a large fraction of the general education, which is known as collegiate education.

3. I think I could easily show also that the proposed plan would be a disadvantage to the best interests of the venerable institution in question, every Virginia college, which is designated as higher education, is a recognized part of the State do with it? Will it make it simply a normal school for males? Will it make it a cheap college? or will it live soon as a well known and most important fact in Virginia, that part of the general system of literary education, which is designated as higher education or collegiate education, is conducted almost exclusively by the independent colleges—Emory and Henry, Hampden-Sydney, the State College, Mason, Roanoke, Washington and Lee, William and Mary. These colleges do this work, and do it most effectively and satisfactorily, without drawing upon the State for a single dollar. They are, in proper sense, a recognized part of the system of education in the State. Now, what would the State be under the proposed plan? It would be taking to own and conduct a college, a large expense in competition with these institutions, which she ought to foster and encourage, and which would, in total yearly income and expenditures, have a credit of \$170,000; they own nearly a million and a half of productive funds; and I estimate that the college and its equipments would aggregate three or four millions more. And all this is practically put at the service of the State in supplying, at the least, a large fraction of the general education, which is known as collegiate education.

I have taken some pains to get the views of our leading educators, and I am confident that the measure proposed in House Bill No. 42 does not meet their approval; and I think it safe to say that it would be for all classes of educators—University men, college men, high school men and for those interested in primary education—all alike, a most unpopular movement.

By your kind permission I will subjoin an extract or two from a letter received by me from one of our leading educators, who is recognized as one of the most prominent educators in our State. He says: "The danger of this movement is that it will lead to the first great step, to commit the State to supplying college literary education throughout its bounds. If the State has one college at Williamsburg, why should it not have one for the great Southwest, one for the Eastern Shore, one for Southside, one for the Valley? You see from this the direct interest that the University of Virginia has in stopping this beginning of a demand that would materially lessen the State's ability and willingness to make large appropriations for it. The money for higher education would have to be divided among a number. He says further: 'I think that there is about as great a danger to the State from the standpoint of the State. The immense demand for money for the primary schools itself forbids the undertaking of such a large work, and it would be necessary a precedent to be followed all through the State.'"

"The State Treasurer would be called on for millions of dollars in carrying out this plan. I believe that a clear presentation of this fact would cause legislators to think long before entering this course."

I am not yet too late for our legislators to give the matter the full consideration that its importance demands. Respectfully,

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**BIGAMIST ASKS FOR LIGHT WORK**  
Has a Cork Leg and Cannot Stand On It Long At a Time.

**STRANGE FAILURE IN NORFOLK**  
Merchant With Heavy Debts, But Locally Unknown Takes Bankrupt Act.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
NORFOLK, VA., February 27.—John P. Hunter, the former Washington and Newport News theatrical man, who pleaded guilty to the charge of bigamy and took three years in the penitentiary when confronted in court here by his two wives, one from Alexandria and the other from Newport News, was formally sentenced by Judge Allan R. Hancock to-day. When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed, the prisoner answered that he has but one leg and cannot stand for any length of time on his cork leg. Hunter asked Judge Hancock to send a letter to the penitentiary authorities telling them of this, so that his prison work might be made as light as possible. The court said he would send such a letter.

JAMES FIELDS, the negro who pleaded guilty to the charge of killing Susie White by fracturing her skull with a brick, and accepted seven years in the penitentiary without a formal trial, was sentenced by Judge Hancock to-day. Fields had nothing to say why sentence should not be passed.

**STRANGE FAILURE.**  
Charles K. Hannan filed a petition as a bankrupt in the United States clerk's office here to-day for \$24,466 debts, with no assets. The attorney says he is a stout merchant, and the bankrupt makes affidavit that he has resided in Norfolk for six months. His name is not in the city directory, and he was not known in the largest distributing house here as a merchant. The debts of the schedule are nearly all due to Philadelphia creditors as follows: Samuel T. Kerr, \$50,000; William D. Audenried, \$22,000; Dr. O. L. Adams, for services, \$500; Fidelity Trust Company, for branch of lease, \$450; John Wanamaker, judgment on note, \$345; Graham, Van Fleet, \$2,000; A. E. Brecht, \$200; Academy of West Chester, Pa., for tuition, \$1,000; V. S. Frickmiller, Watson-town, Pa., \$500; The Wolf Company, Chambersburg, Pa., \$74; J. B. Scriber, Camden, N. J., \$448. These are the largest debts, and there are a number of other smaller debts, none of them due here.

**BOY DEMENTED.**  
H. B. Henshaw, the young man who gave himself up to the Norfolk police and said that he had forged a check for \$5 on his brother-in-law, Douglas Shields, of Graham, Va., will be sent to his brother-in-law's home, as Chief of Police Housh has received a message from Shields stating that Henshaw is demented, and wishes for him to be sent to his home at once.

**SILVER WEDDING.**  
Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Oliver Celebrate Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
PACES, VA., February 27.—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Oliver, who reside near this place, celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary Saturday evening, Feb. 25, to 12. Dancings were the main feature of the evening. The house decorations were of red and green, with shaded lamps to match, which presented a beautiful picture. The supper was most bountiful.

Among the guests present were Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Barksdale, Mrs. O. H. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burgess, Mrs. H. S. Derrick, of Pace's; Miss Callie Oliver, of Elliston, Va.; Miss Ruth Oliver, of South Boston; Miss Katie Hughes, of Danville; Mrs. C. T. Sutherland, of Brooklyn; Miss Lizzie Barksdale and Miss Irene Sutherland, of Brooklyn; Miss Bessie Derrick, Miss Pattie Oliver, Miss Julia Stebbins, Miss Nannie Ferrell and Miss Bessie Vaughan, of Pace's; Mrs. Emma, Emmett Gregory, Keyville, Va.; J. Harvey Oliver, Lynchburg, Va.; Archie Croxton, Danville, Va.; Barksdale Reed, Sutherland, Va.; Beverly Barksdale, Robert Barksdale, J. T. Sutherland, of Brooklyn, Va.; Will Barksdale, Richard Haymes, Russell Derrick, Harvey Stebbins, John Burgess, Willie Owen, John Ferrell, of Pace's, Va.